AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0004] with the following rewritten paragraph:

Safe, effective and more physiologic long-term stabilization has been difficult to accomplish. When spine fusions involve mechanical instrumentation, significant adverse forces are directly aimed at the supportive sites whether they are bone screws, hooks, or the like. This phenomenon usually wears away at the relatively soft bone matter, resulting in a loosening of the attachment points for the implanted hardware and a resulting loss of support by this instrumentation. Thus, fusions involving instrumentation are often carried out in conjunction with bone fusions so that as the instrumentation loosens and fails, support can be maintained by growth of the bony counterpart. These combined procedures involve extensive surgery, substantial blood loss and high cost very often creating more problems for the patient than those solved. Further, the recovery time for such procedures is significant and debilitating and very often necessitates additional spinal surgery.

Please replace paragraph [0030] with the following rewritten paragraph:

FIG. 11 is a **[[**perspective**]]** side elevation view of a second embodiment of a stabilization element;

Please replace paragraph [0043] with the following rewritten paragraph:

While the device 10 is illustrated in FIGS. 1 and 2 as having a stabilized means having two generally parallel stabilization elements 18, it is understood that the

stabilization means may be other suitable forms such as a single stabilization element 18, or two stabilization elements 18 that cross to form an X shape, or two stabilization elements 18 generally parallel having **[[**across**]]** a cross support member to form an H shape.